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SOMERVILLE, MA 02144

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ADAM DASH  
PAUL METSCHER  
MARK SHEEHAN

VIA HAND DELIVERY

August 21, 2023

Clerk's Office  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, City Hall  
93 Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02143

RE: 295-297 Medford Street and 93 Walnut Street

Dear Sir/Madam:

Enclosed please find the Zoning Map Amendment Application regarding the above-referenced properties.

Please let me know when this matter will be heard.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



Adam Dash



# CITY OF SOMERVILLE

Office of Strategic Planning & Community Development

## ZONING MAP AMENDMENT • APPLICATION FORM

2023 AUG 21 A 10:30

Per Article 15.6.2 of the Somerville Zoning Ordinance (SZO), an individual property owner or ten (10) registered voters of the City of Somerville may petition the Somerville City Council to change the maps of the Somerville Zoning Atlas in response to changes in City policy or real-world conditions. To submit a map amendment petition to the City Council, the following must be provided:

1. A completed Zoning Map Amendment Application Form.
2. A copy of the appropriate Zoning Atlas map(s) with the proposed change(s) clearly noted.
3. A letter addressed to the City Council including a description of the proposed changes and the purpose for the petition.

Submit all required documents to:

City Clerk's Office  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, City Hall  
93 Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02143

Property to be changed

Property Address: <b>295-297 Medford Street and 93 Walnut Street</b>		
Map: <b>79</b>	Block: <b>F</b>	Lot: <b>1</b>
Property Address:		
Map:	Block:	Lot:
Property Address:		
Map:	Block:	Lot:
Property Address:		
Map:	Block:	Lot:
Property Address:		
Map:	Block:	Lot:
Property Address:		
Map:	Block:	Lot:
Property Address:		
Map:	Block:	Lot:
Property Address:		
Map:	Block:	Lot:

VER: July 13, 2020 By: John Fragione  
John Fragione, Trustee of Frala Realty Trust  
151 Pearl Street, Somerville, MA 02145

By: Agostino Reola  
Agostino Reola, Trustee of Frala Realty Trust  
151 Pearl Street, Somerville, MA 02145

For ten (10) registered voters:

Name:	Signature: _____
Address:	

Name:	Signature: _____
Address:	

Name:	Signature: _____
Address:	

Name:	Signature: _____
Address:	

Name:	Signature: _____
Address:	

Name:	Signature: _____
Address:	

Name:	Signature: _____
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Name:	Signature: _____
Address:	

Name:	Signature: _____
Address:	

Name:	Signature: _____
Address:	

## ZONING MAP AMENDMENT APPLICATION

**Property: 295-297 Medford Street and 93 Walnut Street**

**Owner and Applicant: John Fragione and Agostino Feola, Trustees of Frala Realty Trust**

**Agent for Owner and Applicant: Adam Dash, Esq.**

**August 21, 2023**

**To: Hon. Matthew McLaughlin, Ward 1 Councilor and Chair of the Land Use  
Committee  
Kimberly Wells, City Clerk  
Sarah Lewis, Planning Director**

The Owner/Applicant, John Fragione and Agostino Feola, Trustees of Frala Realty Trust owns the property located at 295-297 Medford Street and 93 Walnut Street, which is Assessors Map 79, Block F, Lot 1, being a vacant lot which used to house an automotive building that has been demolished. The property is also located in the ¼ mile Transit Area near the new Gilman Square Green Line station.

The Owner/Applicant seeks to construct a five-story residential structure under the Somerville Zoning Ordinance (“SZO”), however, the Property is located in the Mid-Rise 3 (MR3) zoning district, which does not allow for five story structures.

Therefore, the Owner/Applicant seeks to change the current MR3 zoning of the property to Mid-Rise 5 (“MR5”) so that the Owner/Applicant can build a five-story residential structure which is net zero ready, can meet the basic mid-rise intent of the SZO for the property by constructing an Apartment Building building type, can add more residential units near transit, can create more affordable dwelling units (“ADU’s”), and can provide more, much-needed housing in the City.

Without the zoning map change, the redevelopment of this old automotive site would be hampered, and the number of dwelling units, including the number of ADU’s, would be reduced. With five stories, the number of ADU’s can be increased from about 9 ADU’s to about 16 ADU’s.

The property is located across the street from the eleven-story Burton Faulkner Towers, and abuts the railroad tracks on one side and streets on two other sides, such that the impact of going from three stories to five stories would not have a major impact on the neighborhood.

Filed herewith is the Somerville Zoning Map showing the Property and illustrating the proposed map change from MR3 to MR5.

Also filed herewith are massing models and shadow studies showing the small impact of making the requested map change.

SomerVision 2040’s goals regarding the need for more housing and for measures to address climate change and sustainability concerns can be met by building energy efficient residential

structures, such as is being proposed, rather than keeping land vacant. Applicant intends to seek either LEED certifiability or Passive House certifiability.

To quote various portions of SomerVision 2040:

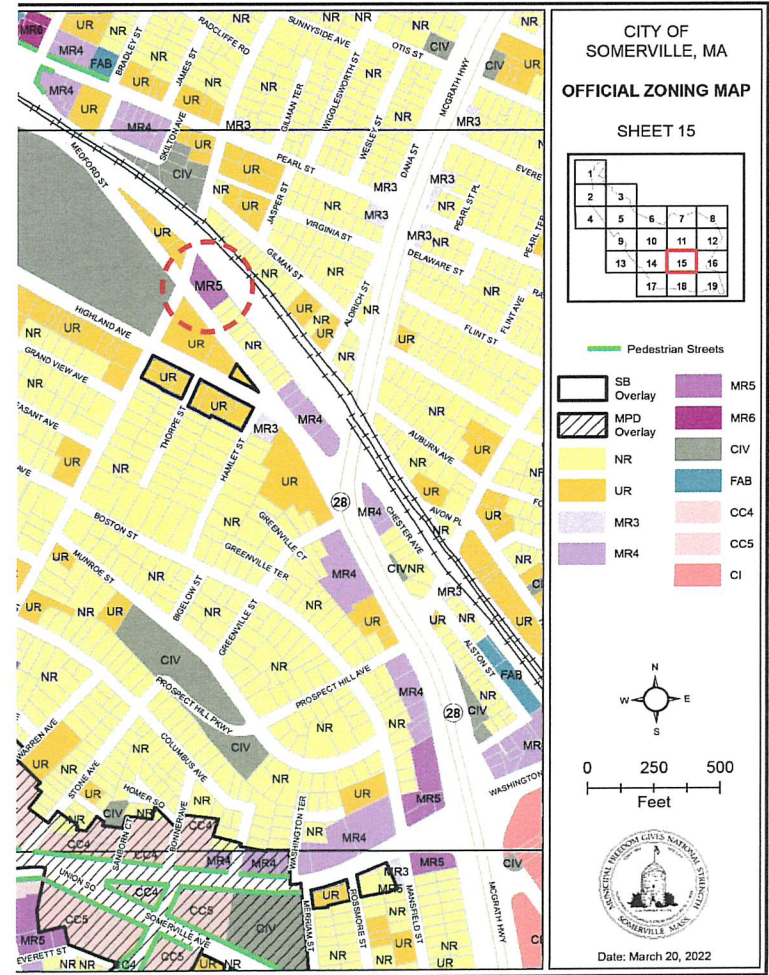
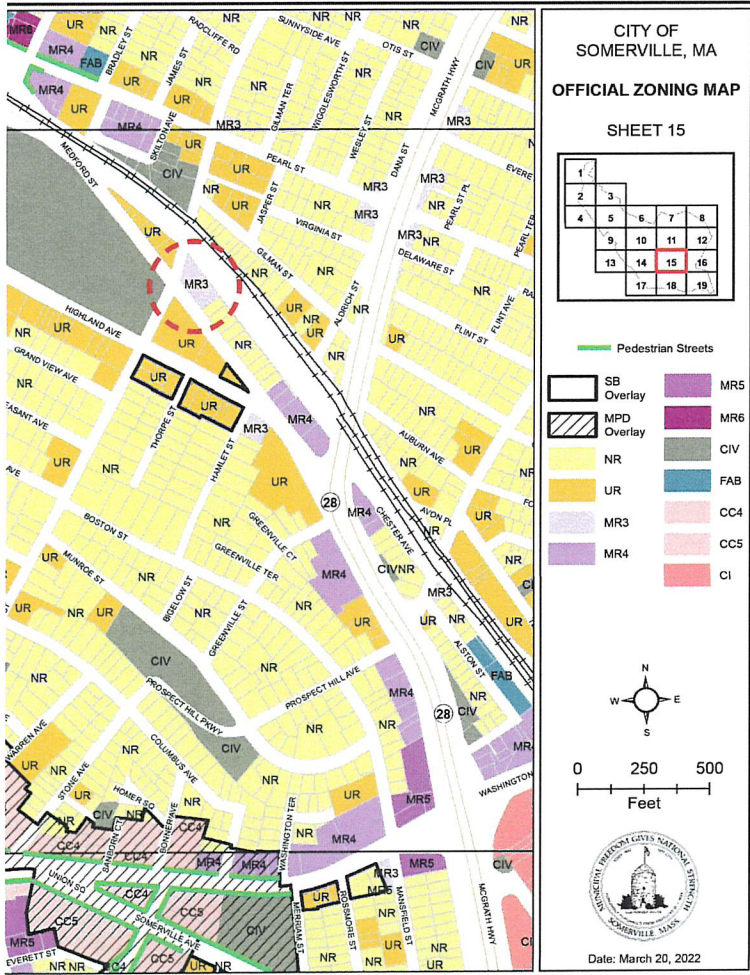
*We need to integrate sustainability in all City processes, especially the way we live and move about.*

*Our infrastructure plays a critical role in improving our sustainability and resiliency to future climate events. We should explore traditional and innovative ways of addressing our problems.*

*Our housing stock needs to be ready for the 21st century—low energy, resilient, healthy, and comfortable. To meet these goals, the majority of the houses in Somerville need significant renovations.*

The best way to achieve these goals is to allow property owners to adapt their existing properties for productive, dense residential uses, particularly near transit. This is what the Owner/Applicant intends to do if the zoning map amendment is approved. Having a large, abandoned, vacant lot near transit does not meet any of the City's goals.

Therefore, the Owner/Applicant requests that the zoning map regarding the Property be amended from MR3 to MR5.



**ZONING COMPARISON**  
MR3 & MR5

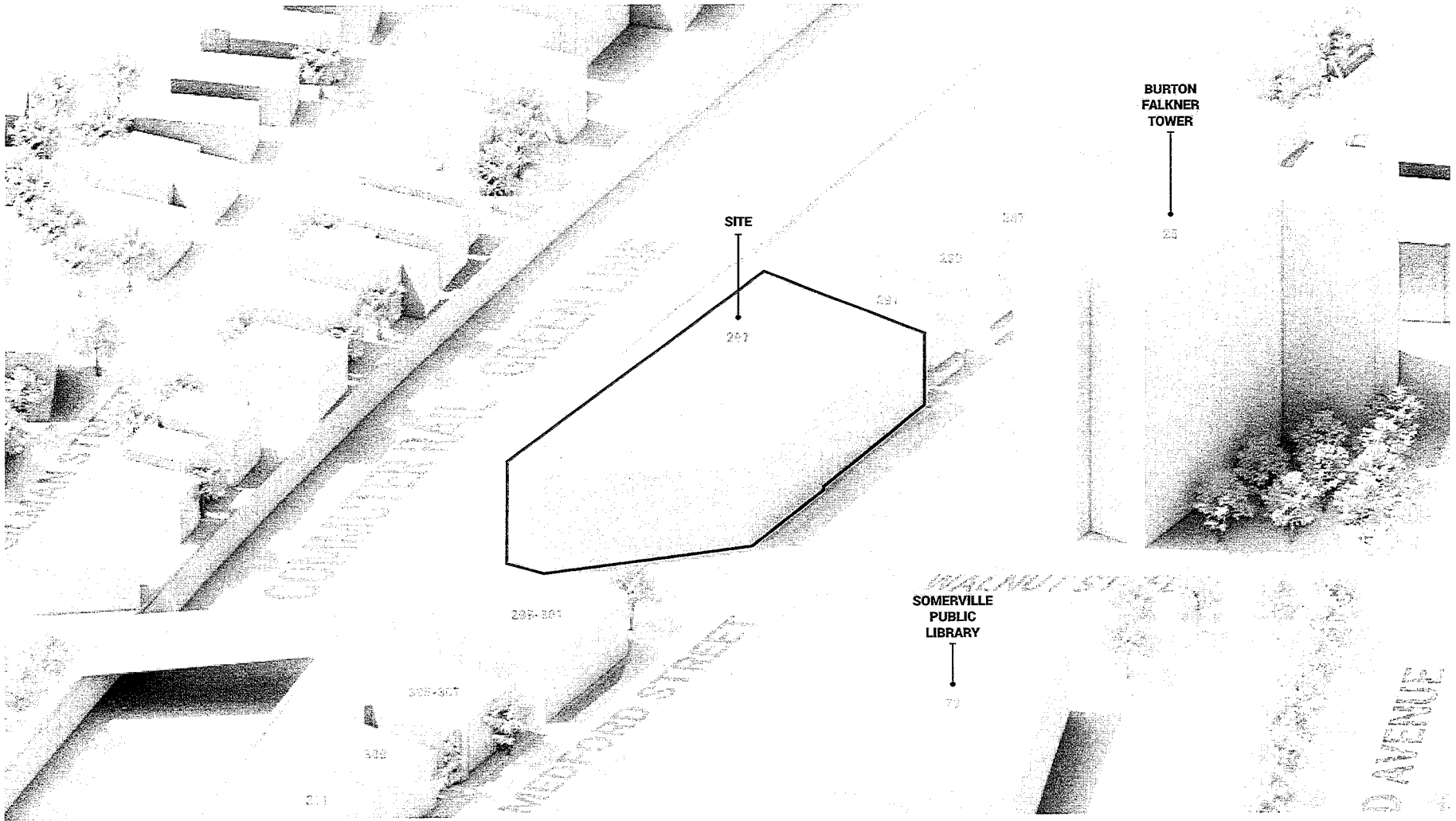
**2 ALPINE STREET**  
MARCH 30 2023



# **SOLAR SUN STUDY**

**297 MEDFORD STREET**

**SOMERVILLE MA**



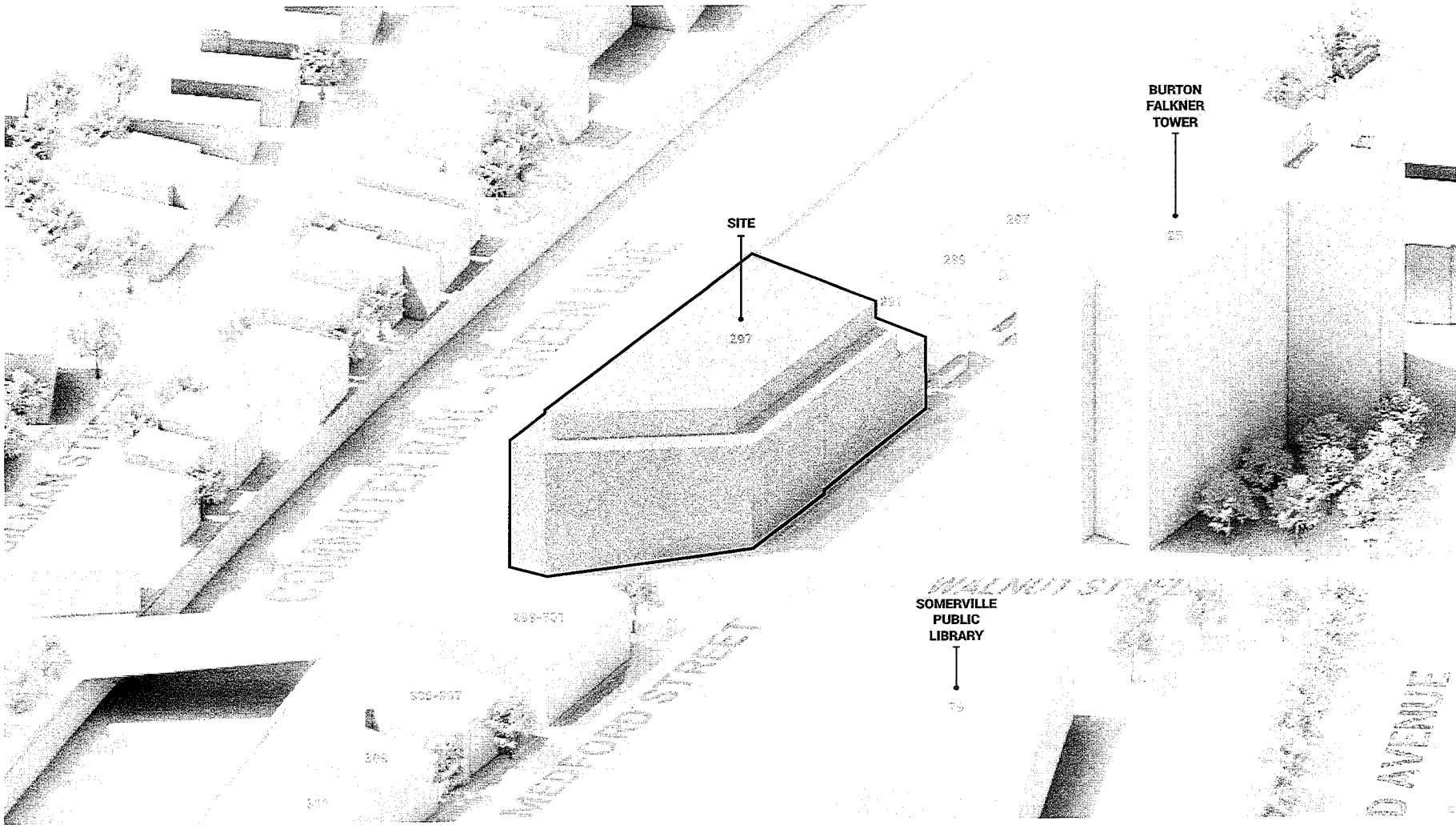
**MASSING DIAGRAM**  
 MR3 - MID RISE - APARTMENT BUILDING

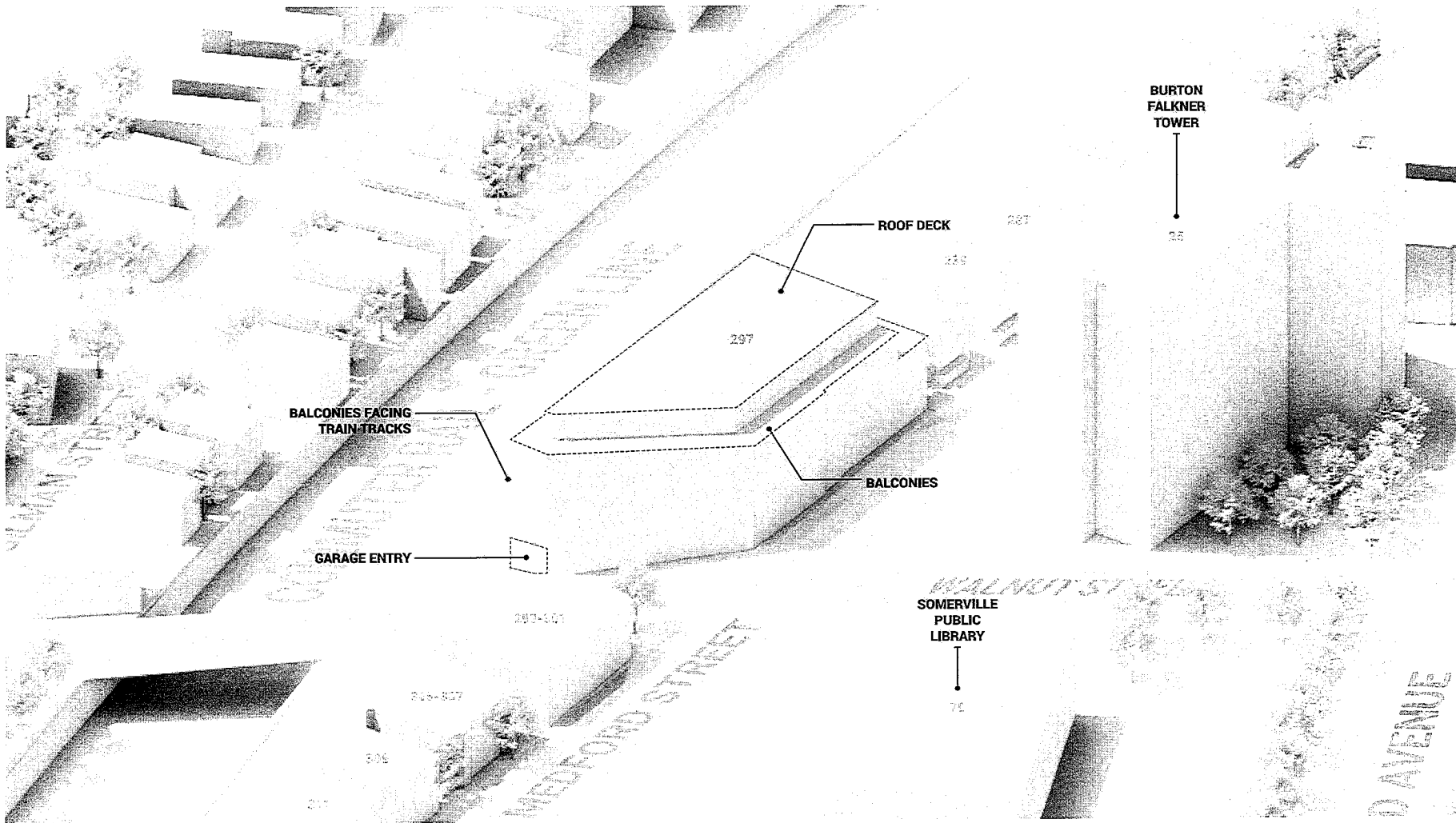
2 ALPINE STREET

MARCH 30 2023





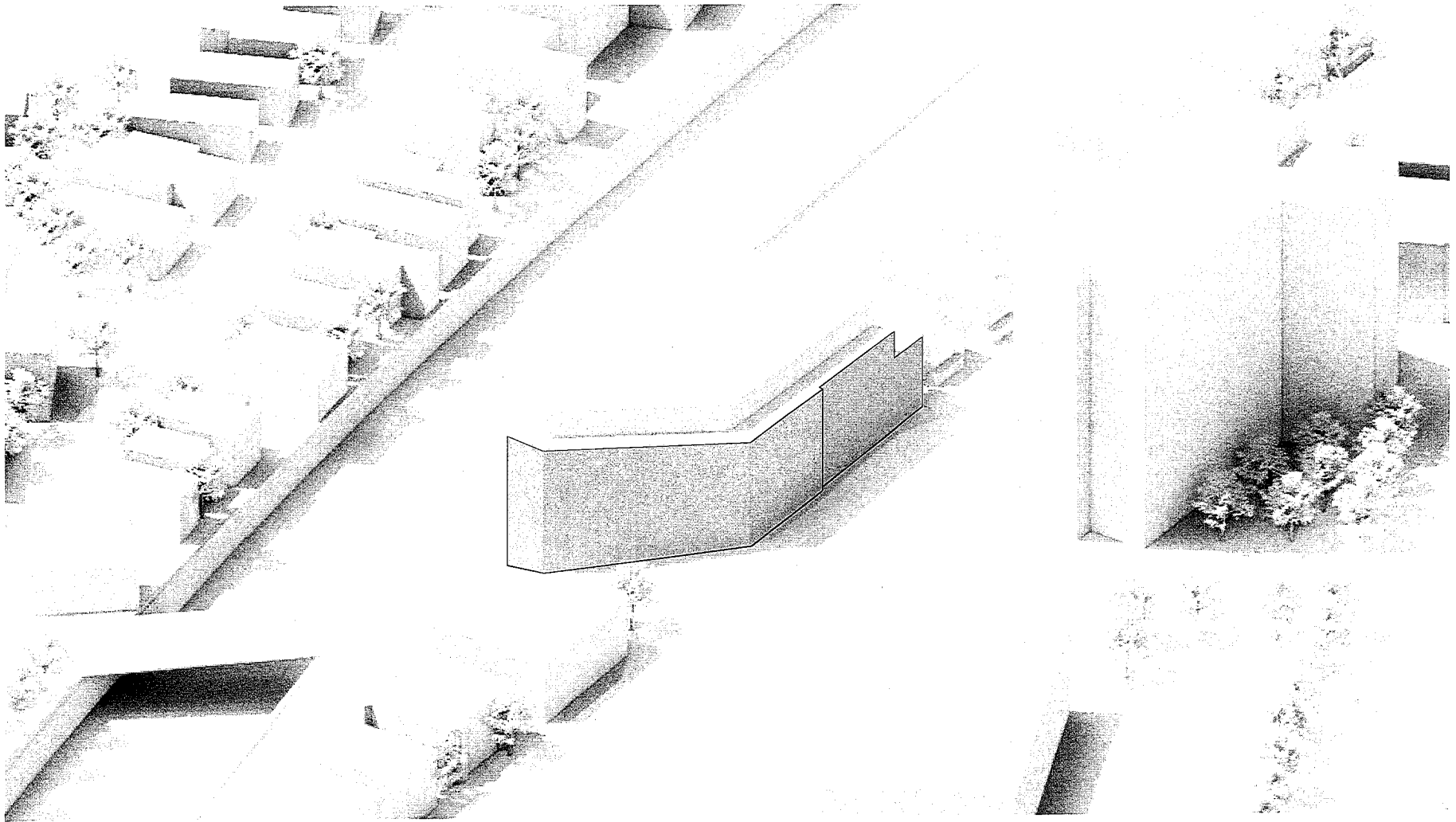




**OUTDOOR SPACE / PARKING**  
 MR5 - MID RISE - APARTMENT BUILDING

2 ALPINE STREET  
 MARCH 30 2023





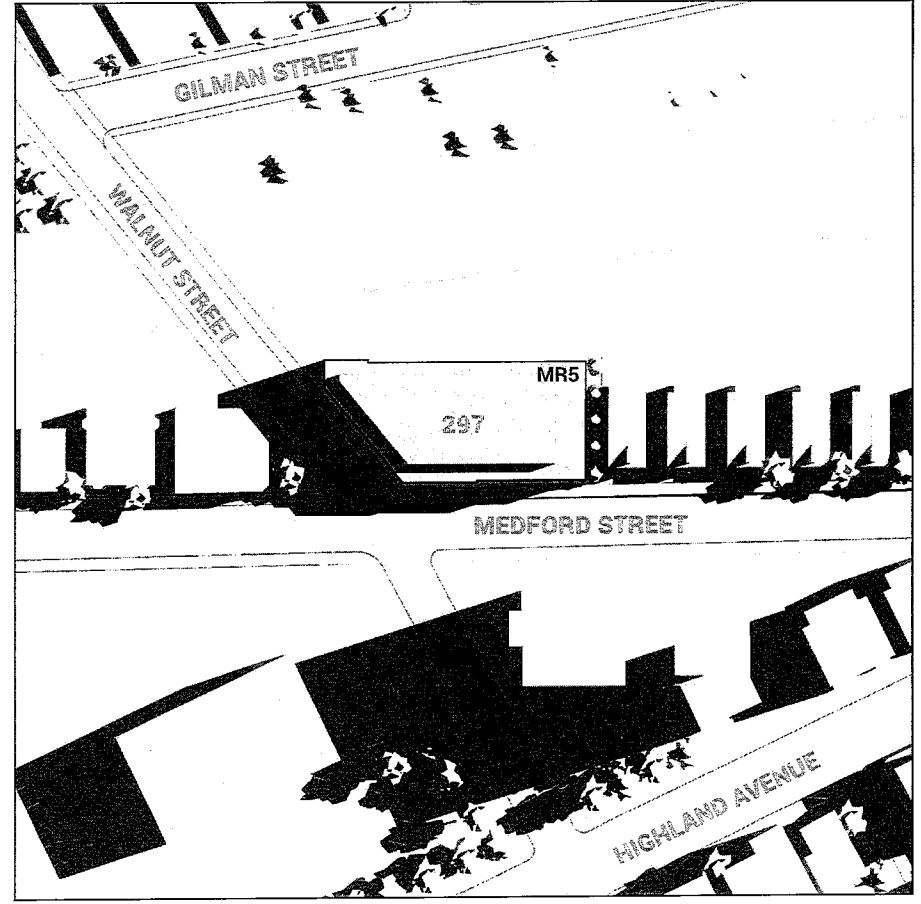
**FACADE MATERIAL SEPERATION**  
MR5 - MID RISE - APARTMENT BUILDING

2 ALPINE STREET

MARCH 30 2023

BALANCE  
ARCHITECTS

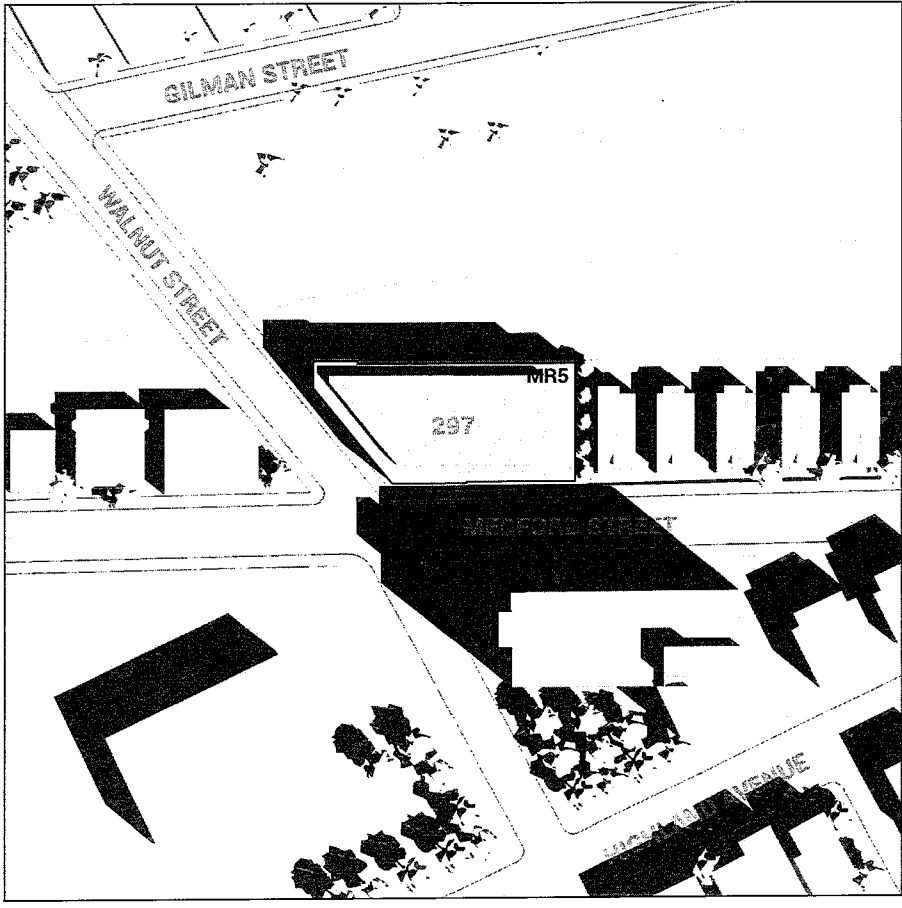
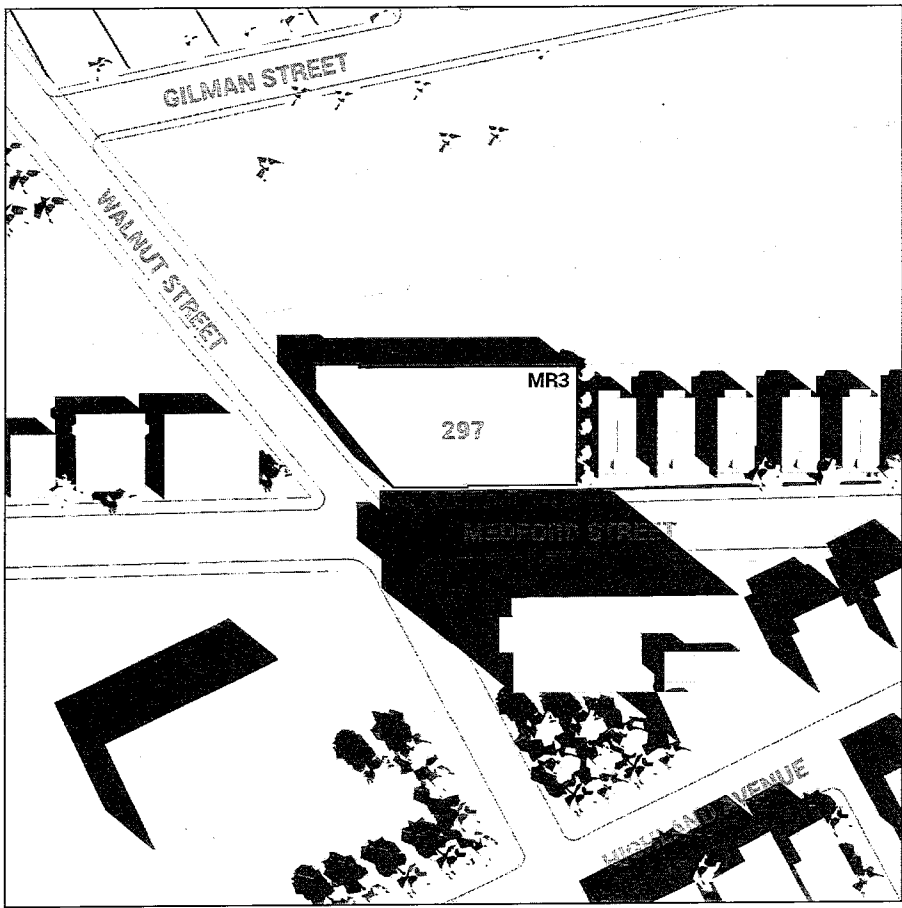




**VERNAL EQUINOX** MR3 + MR5  
MARCH 21 - 9:00 AM

**297 MEDFORD STREET**  
MARCH 30 2023

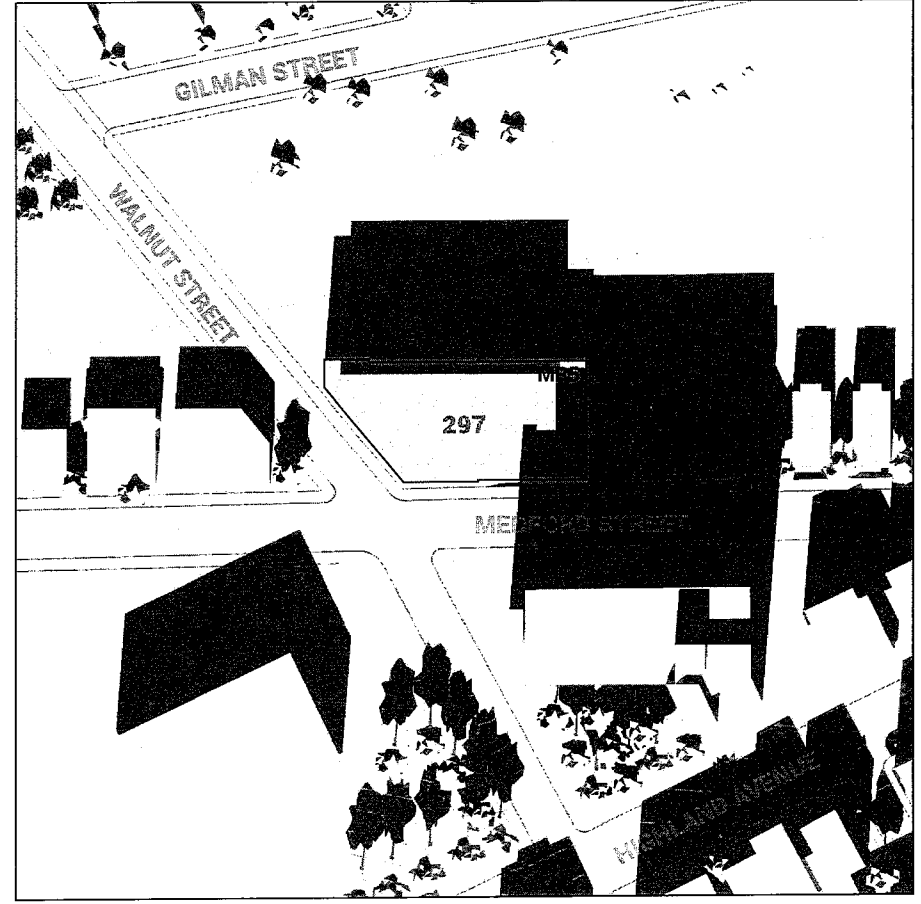
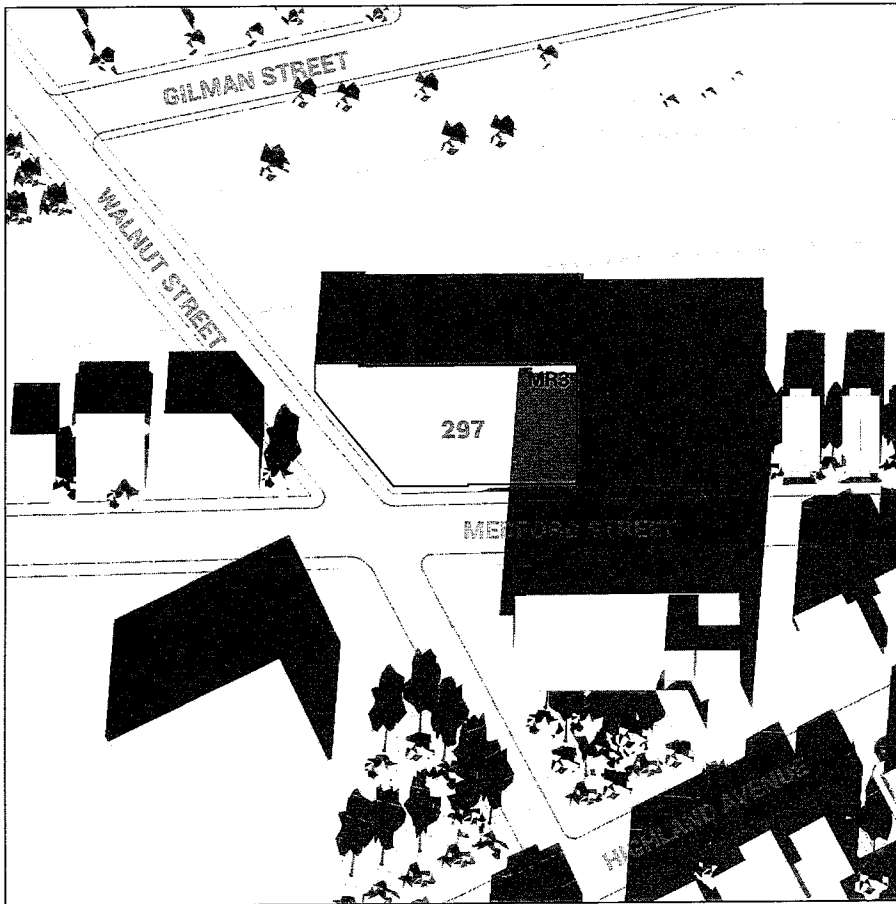




**VERNAL EQUINOX** MR3 + MR5  
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**297 MEDFORD STREET**  
MARCH 30 2023

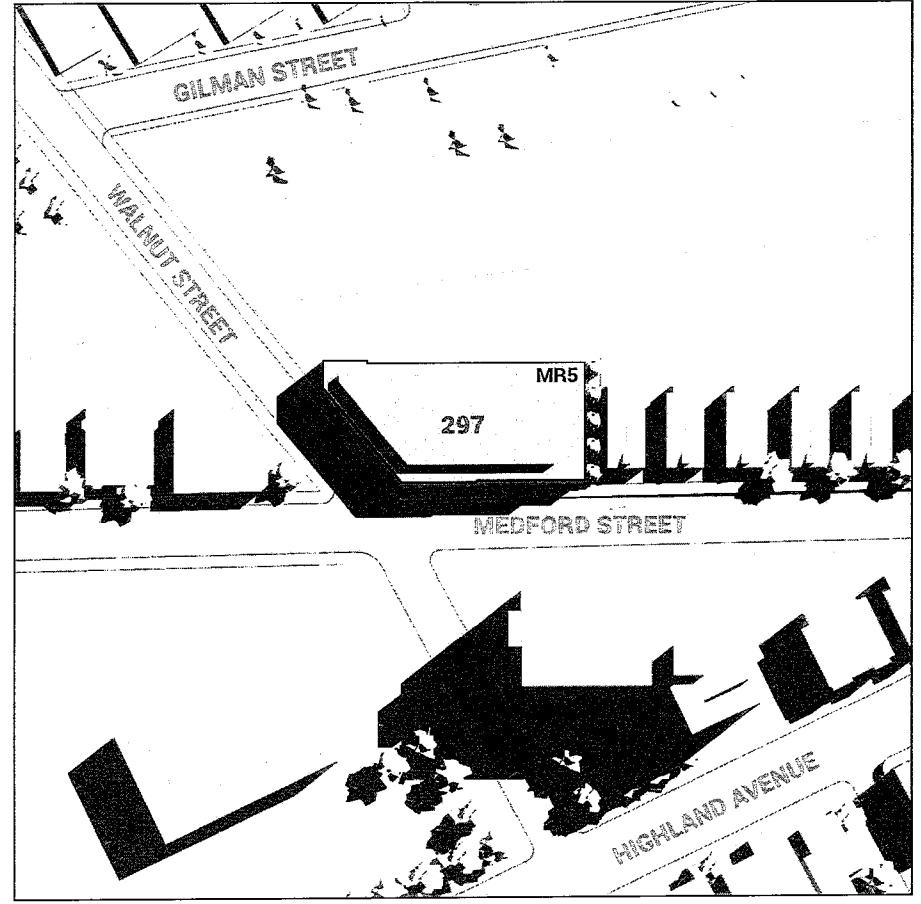
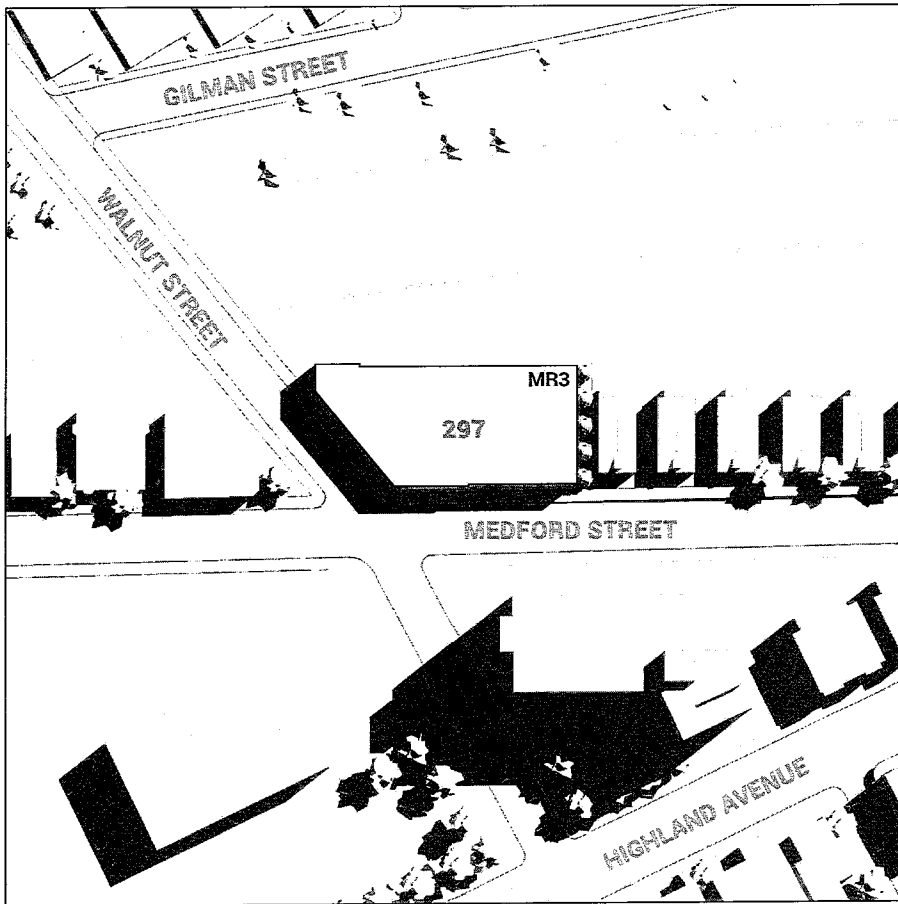




**VERNAL EQUINOX** MR3 + MR5  
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**297 MEDFORD STREET**  
MARCH 30 2023

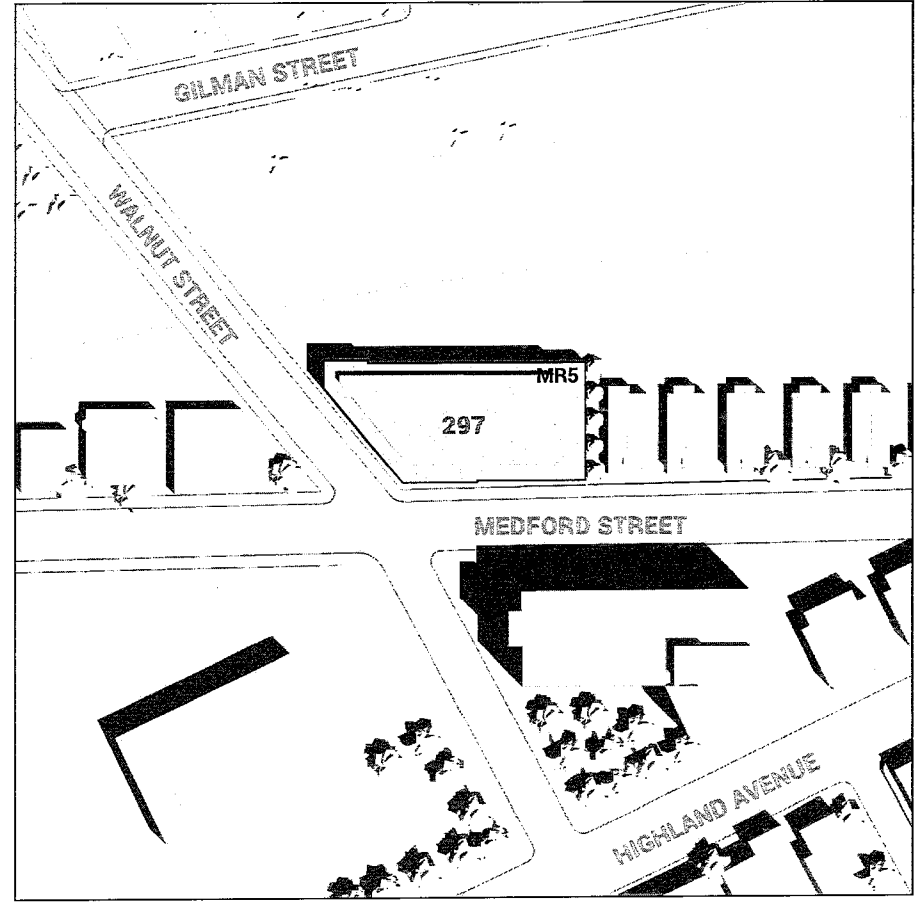
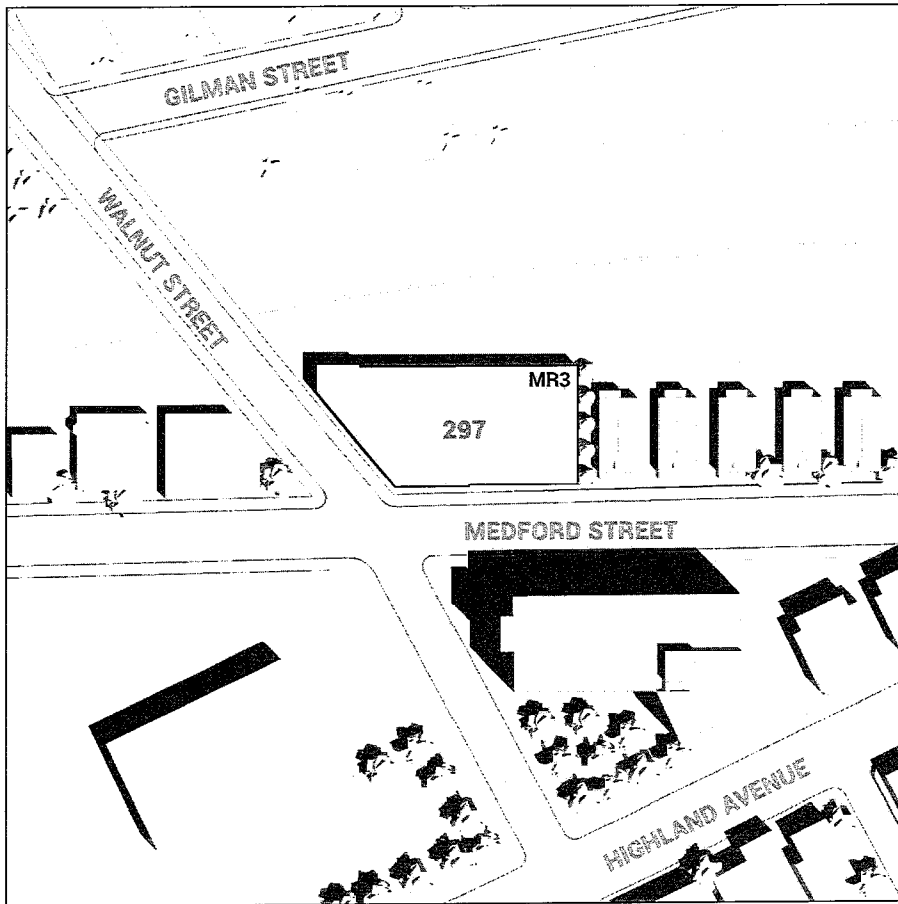




**SUMMER SOLSTICE** MR3 + MR5  
JUNE 21 - 9:00 AM

**297 MEDFORD STREET**  
MARCH 30 2023



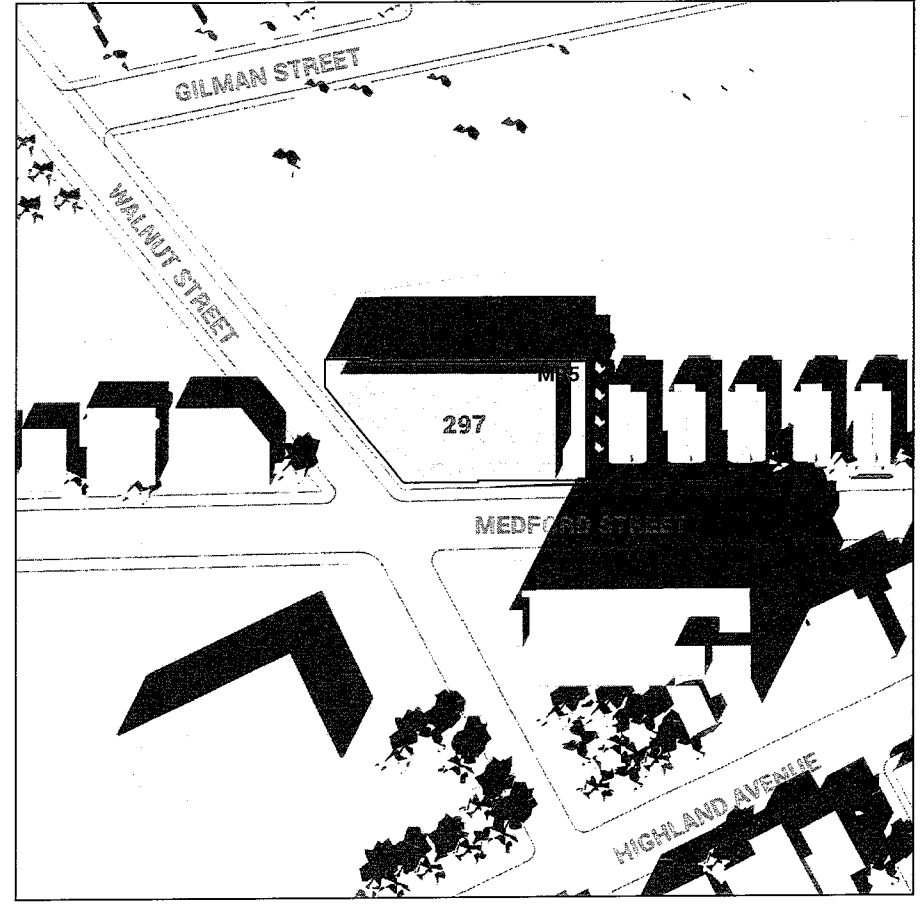


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**297 MEDFORD STREET**  
MARCH 30 2023



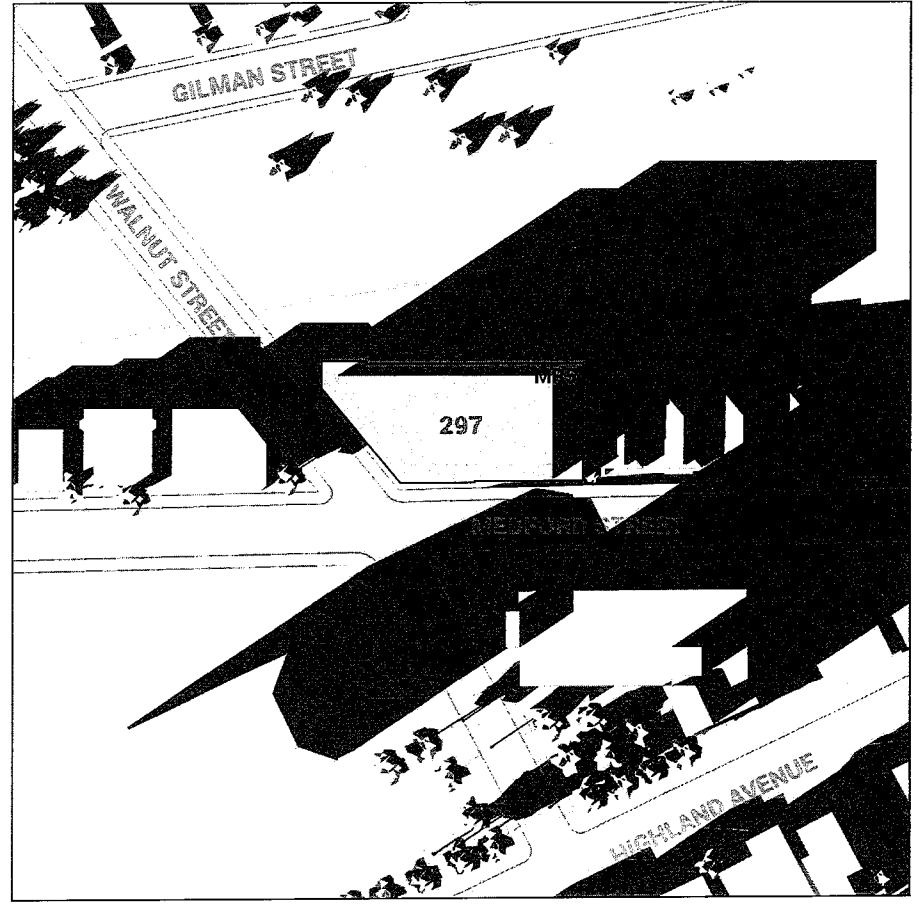
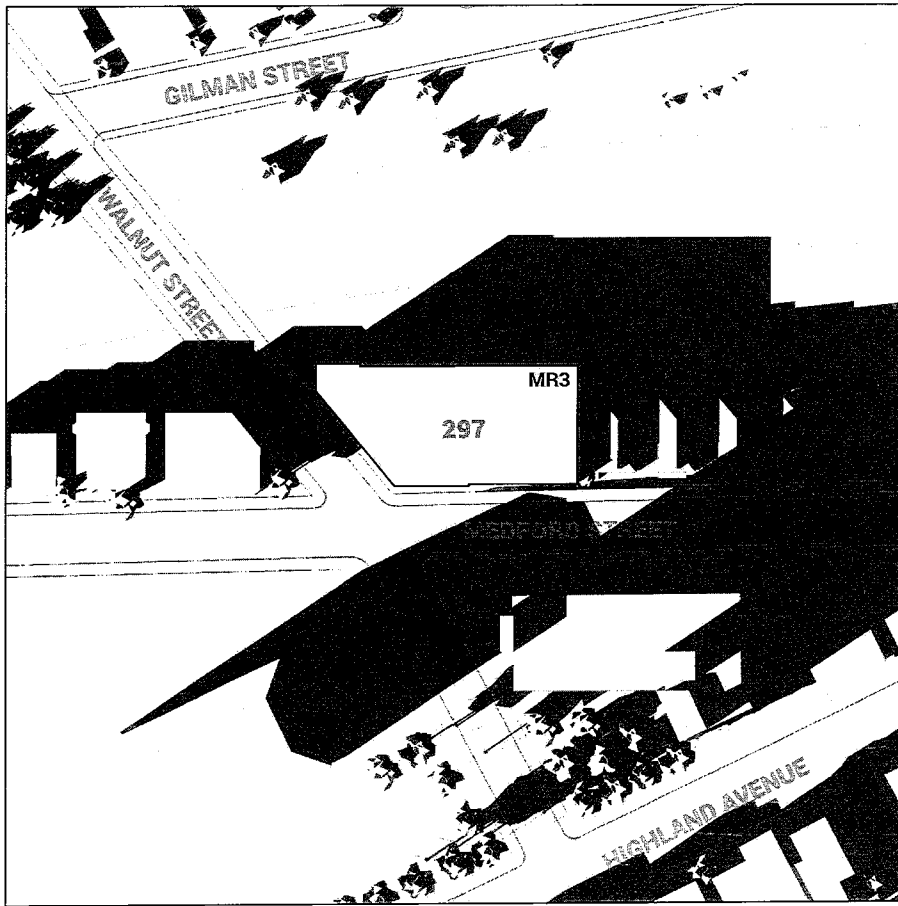




**SUMMER SOLSTICE** MR3 + MR5  
JUNE 21 - 3:00 PM

**297 MEDFORD STREET**  
MARCH 30 2023





**SUMMER SOLSTICE** MR3 + MR5  
JUNE 21 - 6:00 PM

297 MEDFORD STREET  
MARCH 30 2023

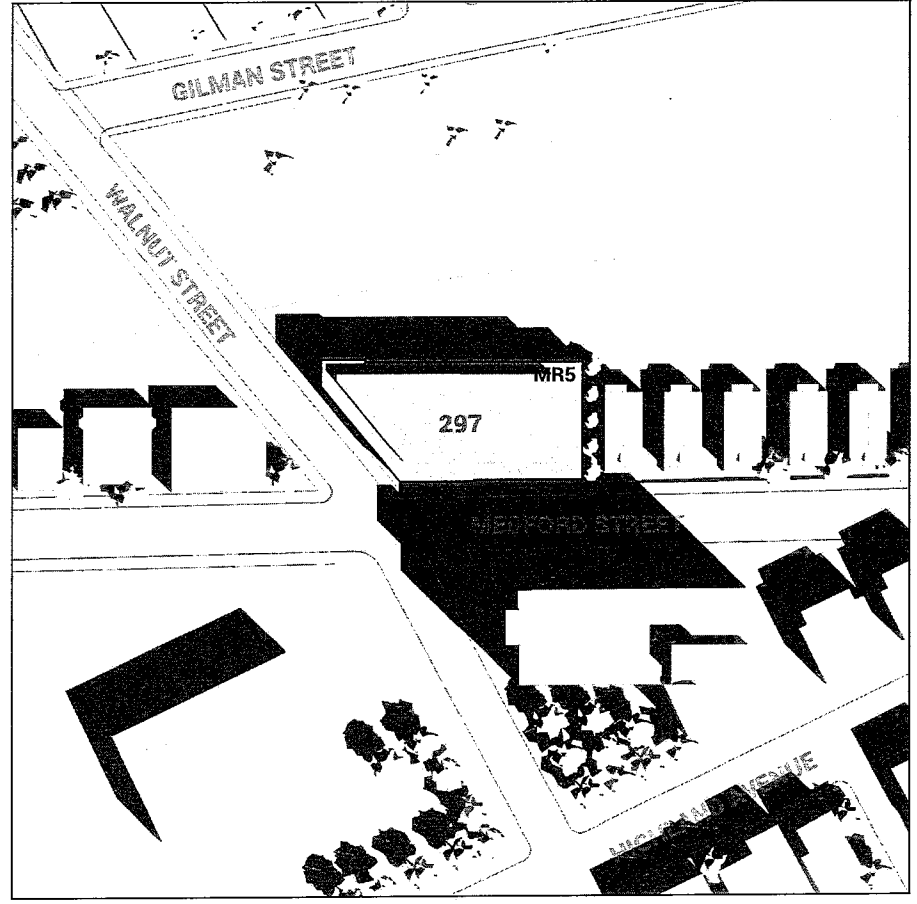
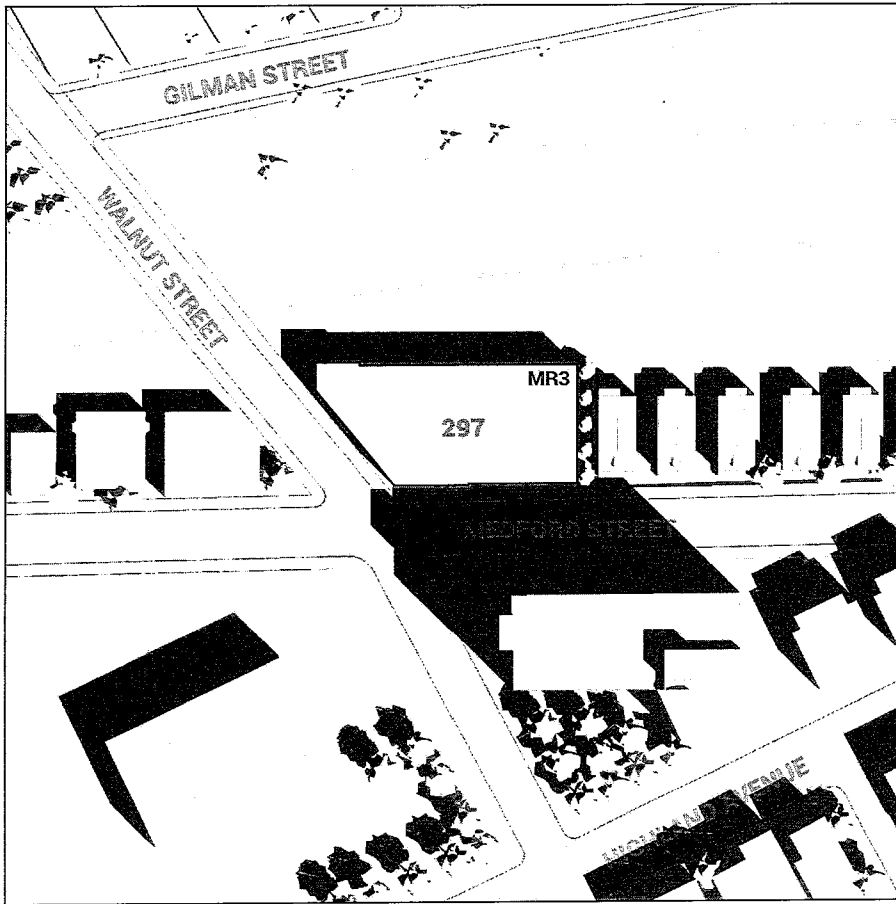
BALANCE  
ARCHITECTS **BA**



**AUTUMNAL EQUINOX** MR3 + MR5  
SEPTEMBER 21 - 9:00 AM

297 MEDFORD STREET  
MARCH 30 2023



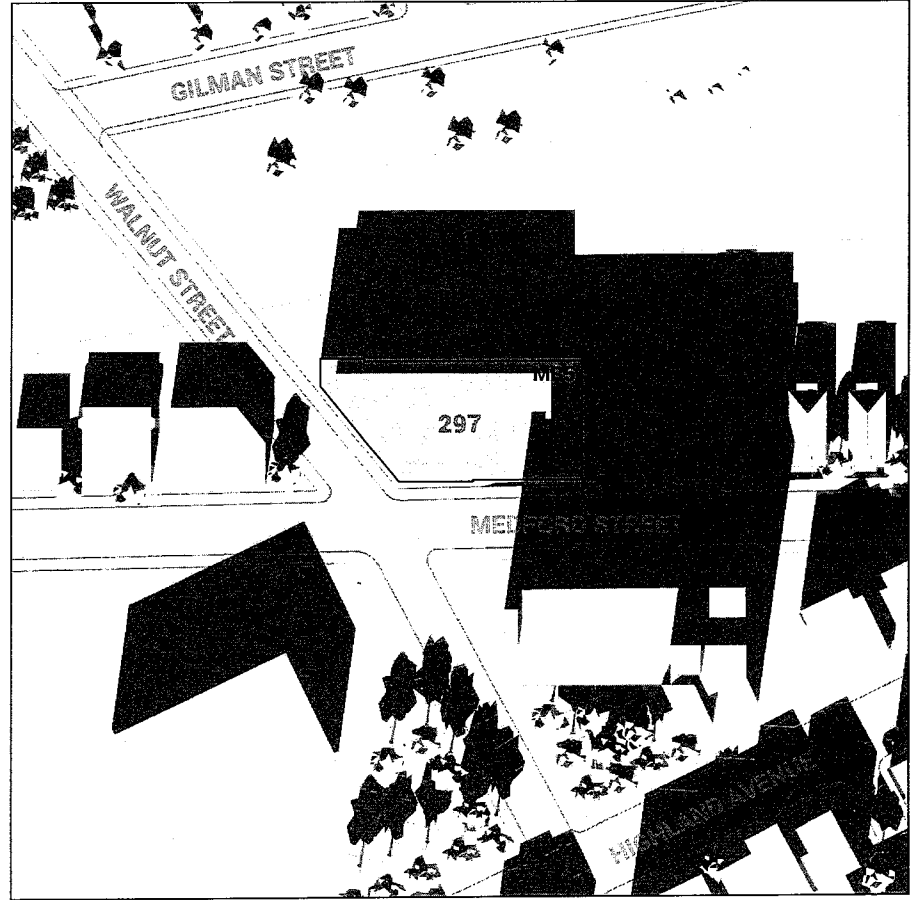
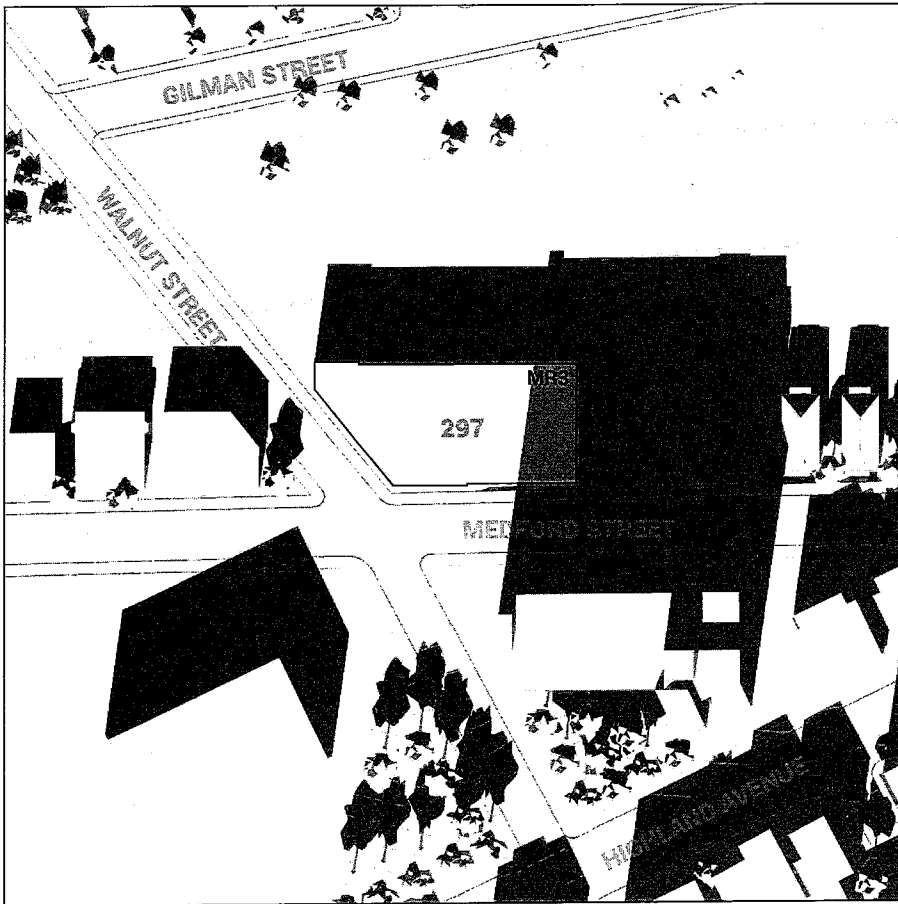


**AUTUMNAL EQUINOX** MR3 + MR5  
SEPTEMBER 21 - 12:00 PM

**297 MEDFORD STREET**

MARCH 30 2023





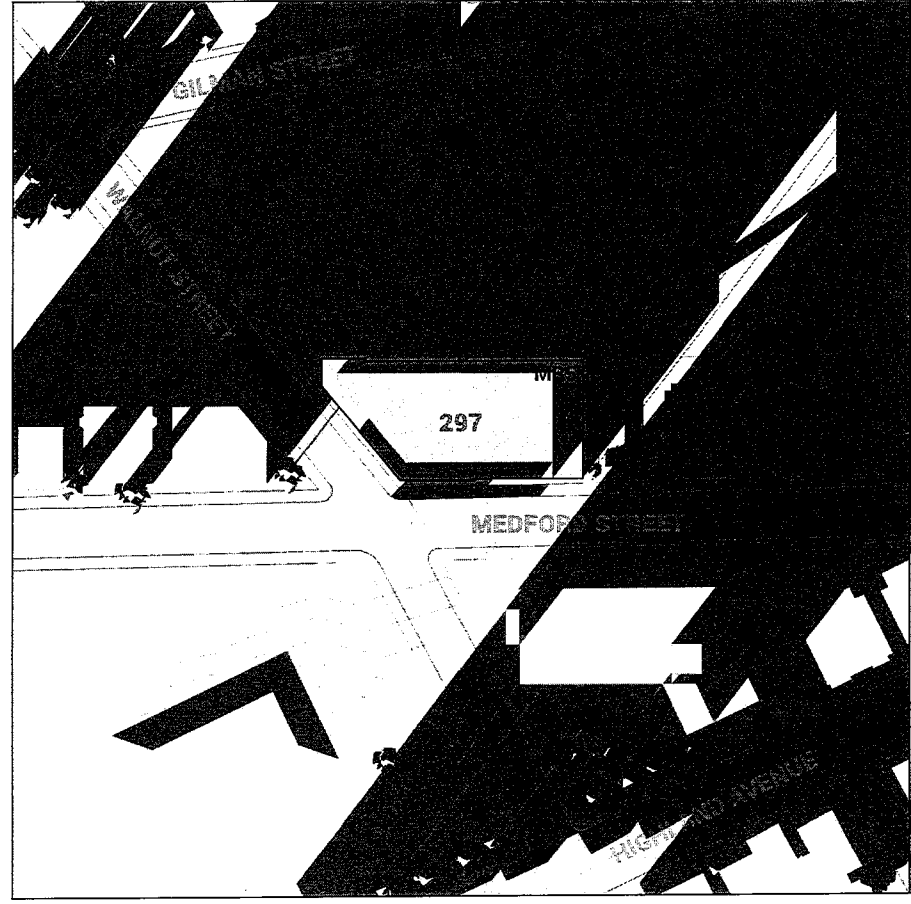
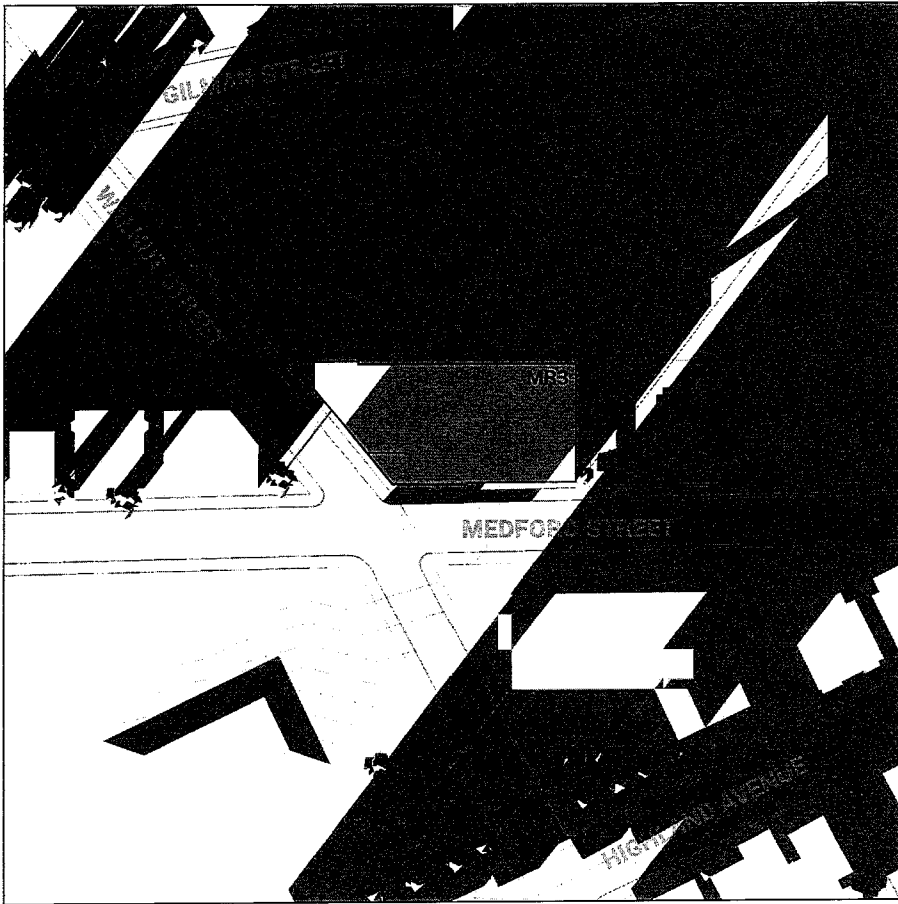
**AUTUMNAL EQUINOX** MR3 + MR5  
SEPTEMBER 21 - 3:00 PM

297 MEDFORD STREET

MARCH 30 2023

BALANCE  
ARCHITECTS



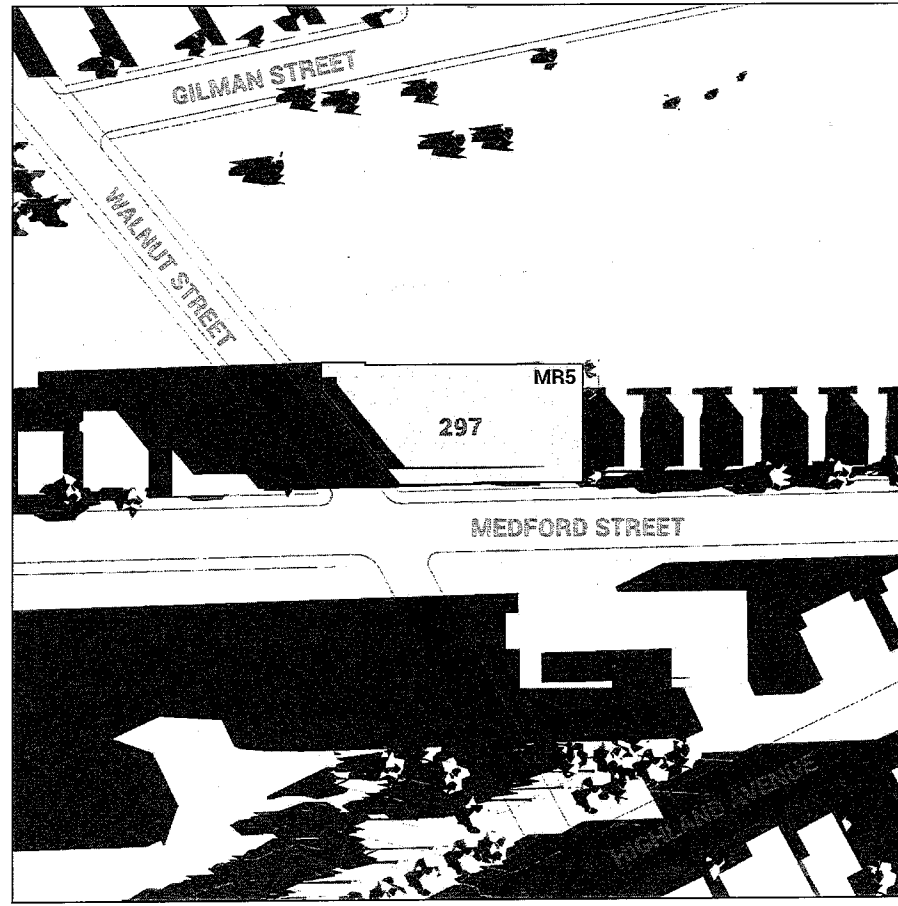
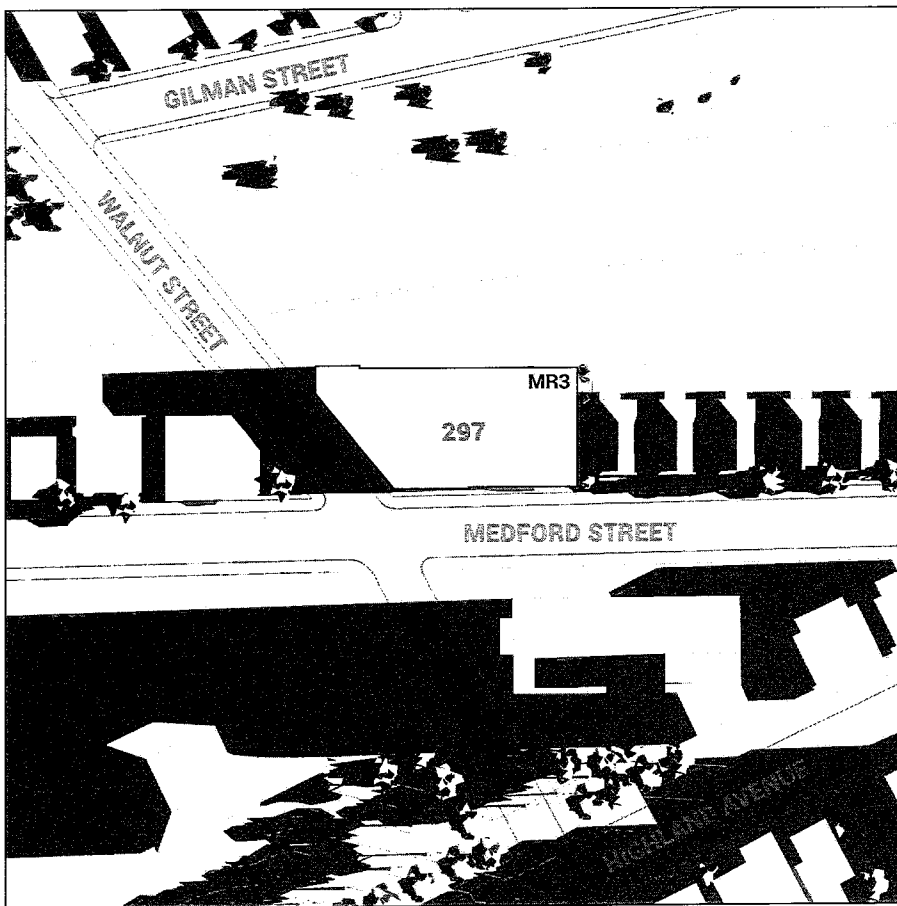


**AUTUMNAL EQUINOX** EXISTING + PROPOSED  
SEPTEMBER 21 - 6:00 PM

297 MEDFORD STREET

MARCH 30 2023

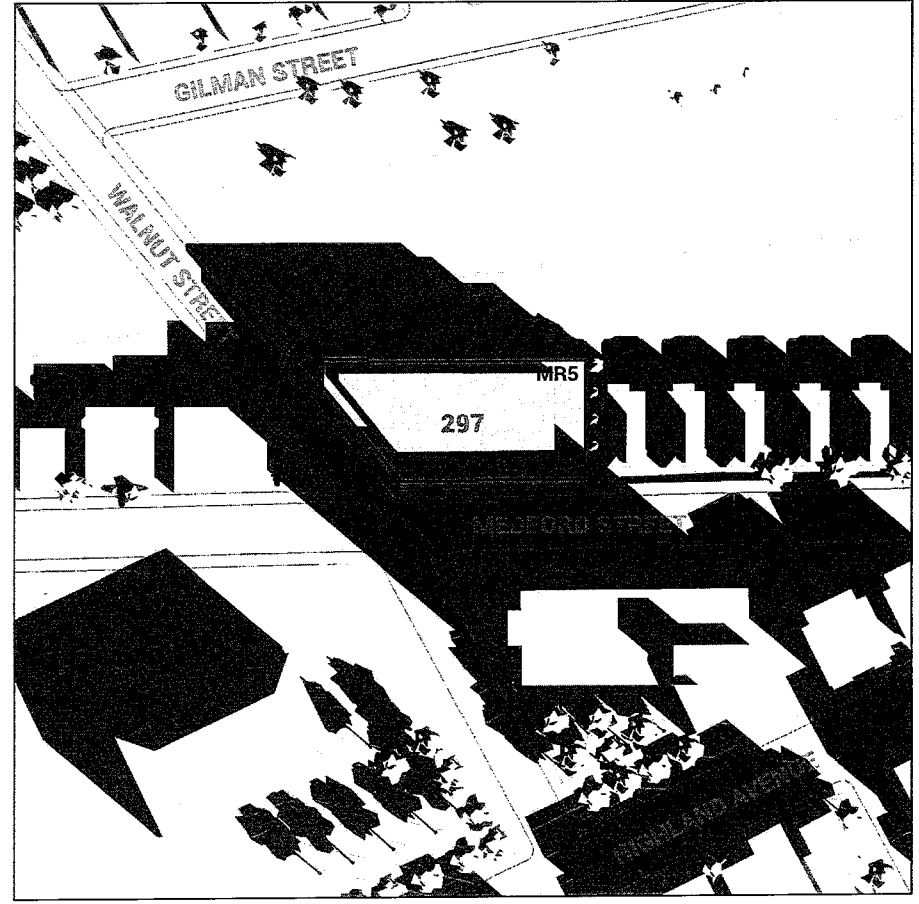




**WINTER SOLSTICE** EXISTING + PROPOSED  
DECEMBER 21 - 9:00 AM

297 MEDFORD STREET  
MARCH 30 2023

BALANCE  
ARCHITECTS **BA**



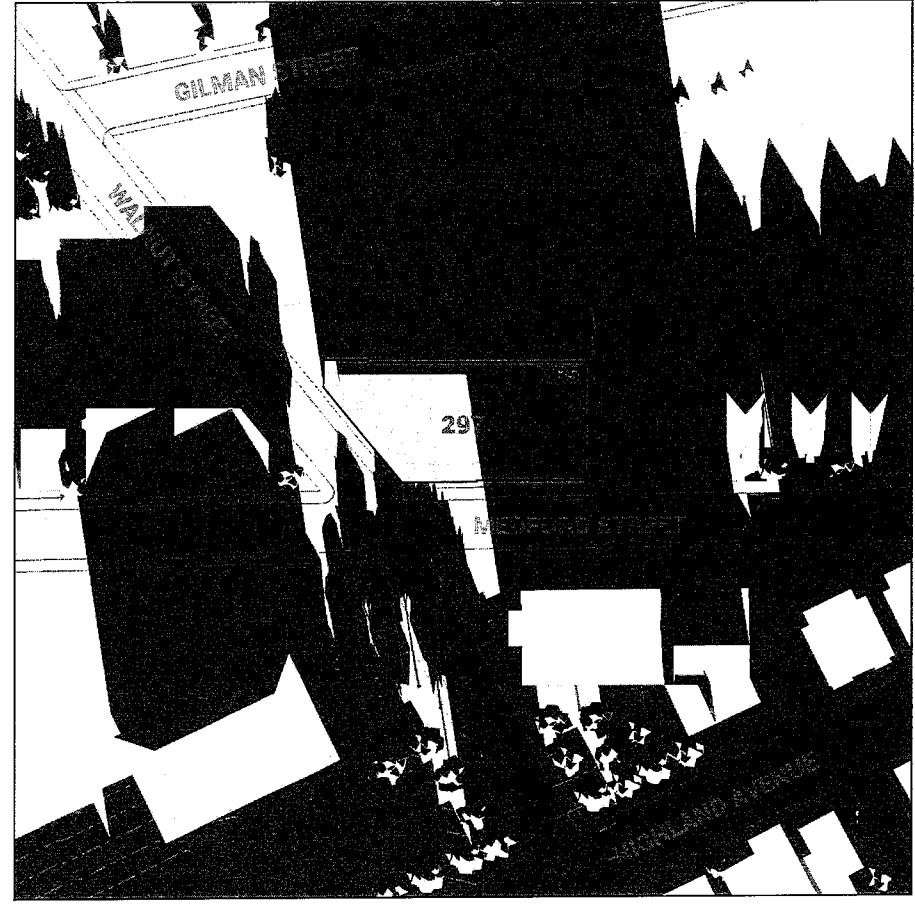
**WINTER SOLSTICE** EXISTING + PROPOSED  
DECEMBER 21 - 12:00 PM

297 MEDFORD STREET

MARCH 30 2023







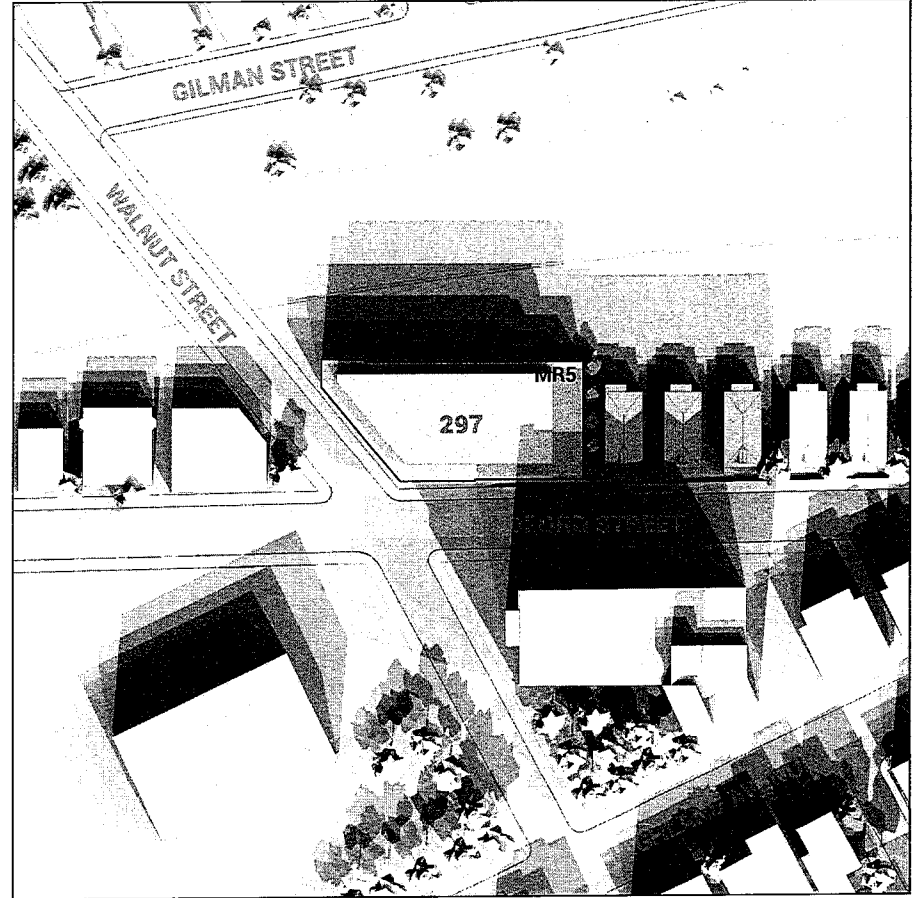
**WINTER SOLSTICE** EXISTING + PROPOSED  
DECEMBER 21 - 3:00 PM

297 MEDFORD STREET

MARCH 30 2023

BALANCE  
ARCHITECTS **BA**

**PROPOSED  
CUMULATIVE NEW SHADOWS**



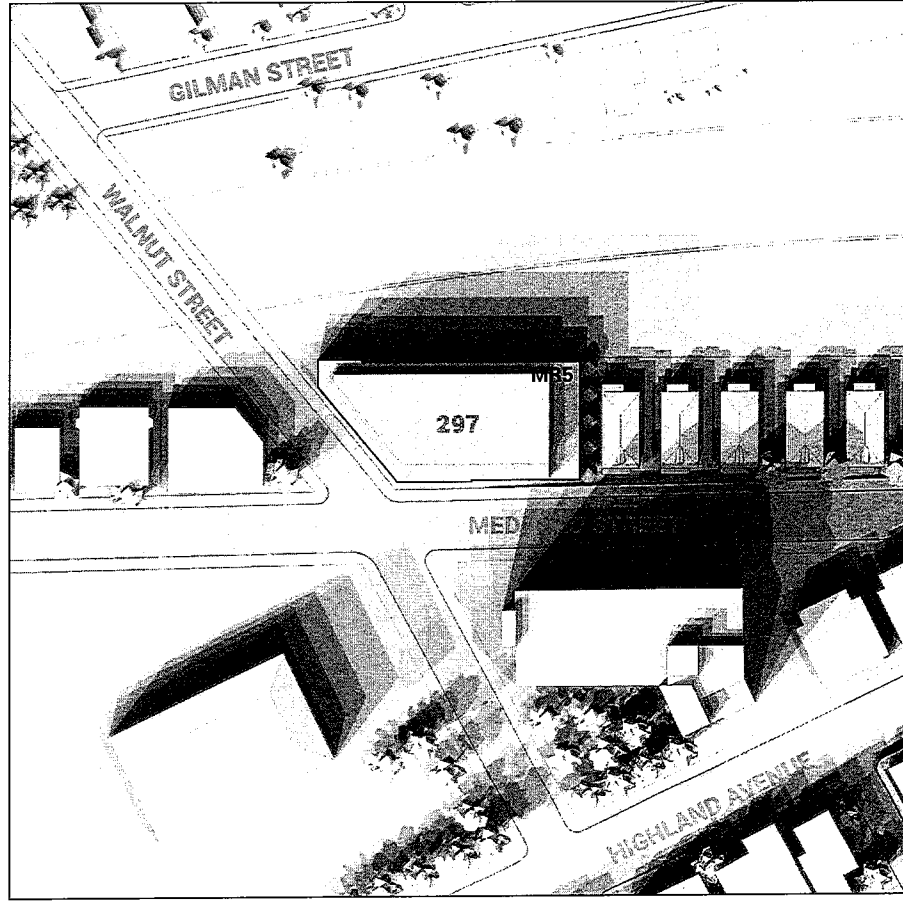
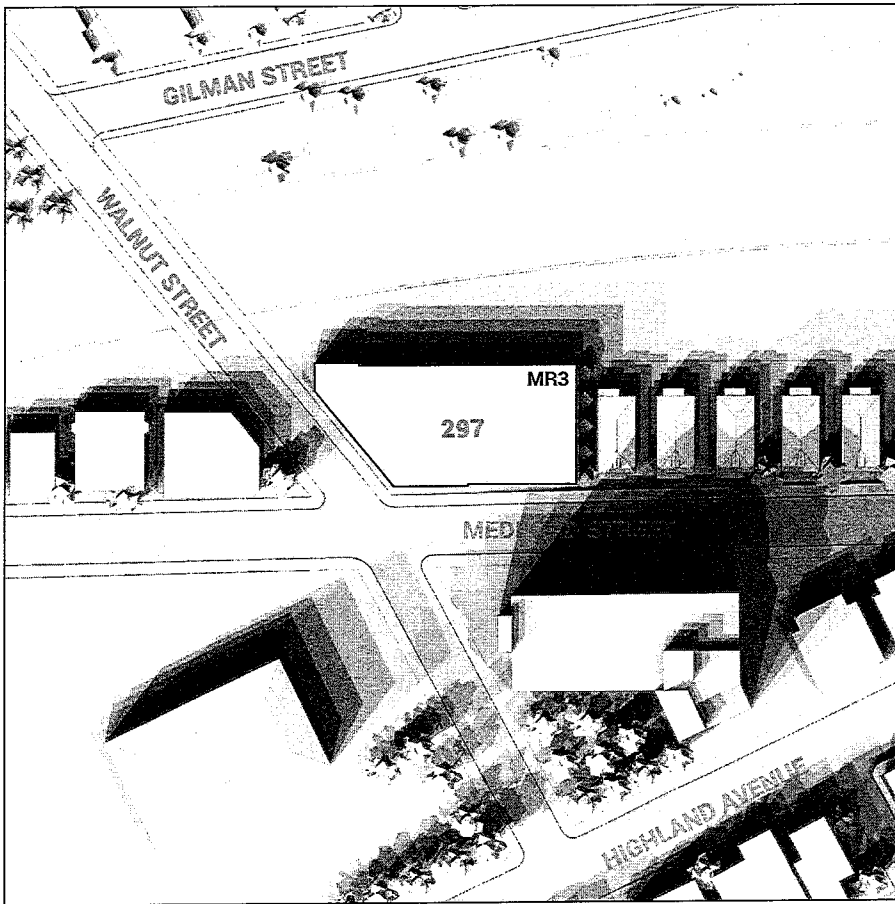
**VERNAL EQUINOX** EXISTING + PROPOSED  
MARCH 21 - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

297 MEDFORD STREET

MARCH 30 2023

BALANCE  
ARCHITECTS

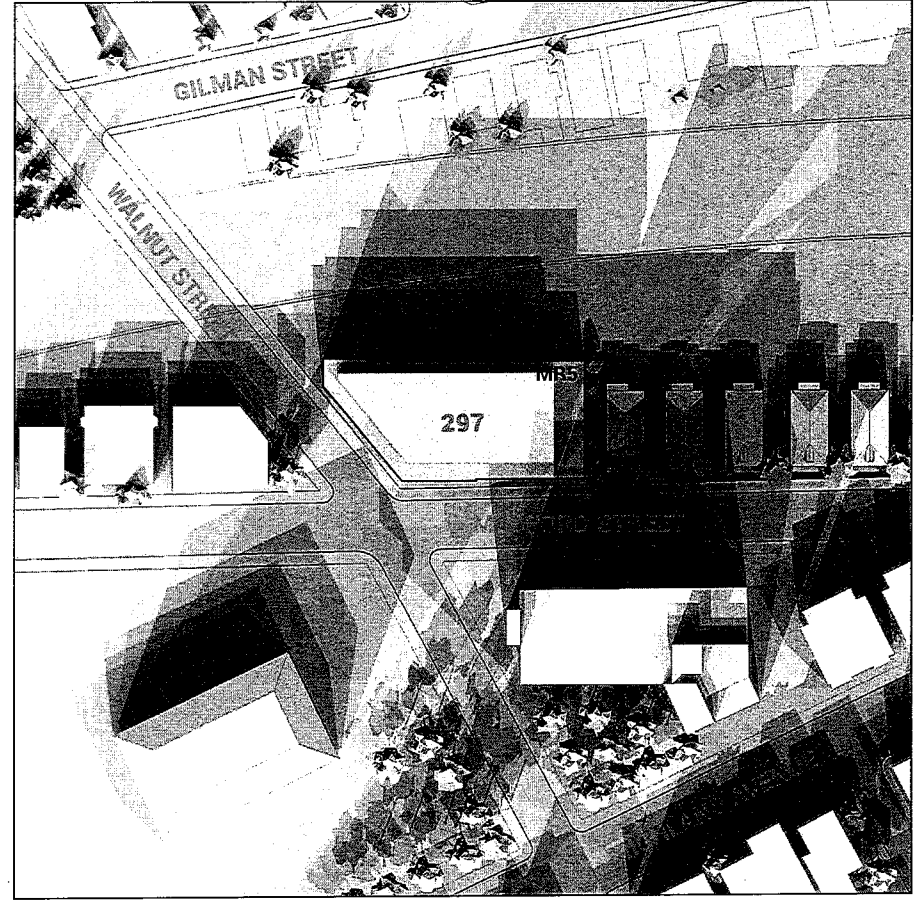
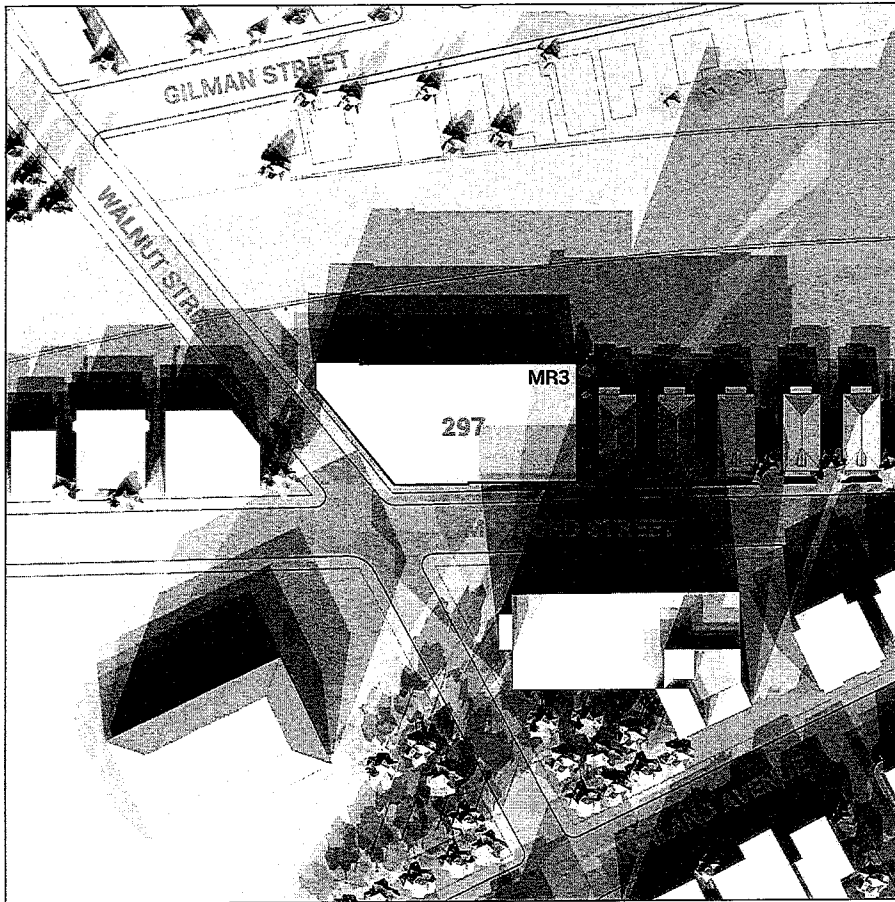




**SUMMER SOLSTICE** EXISTING + PROPOSED  
JUNE 21 - 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

297 MEDFORD STREET  
MARCH 30 2023

BALANCE  
ARCHITECTS **BA**



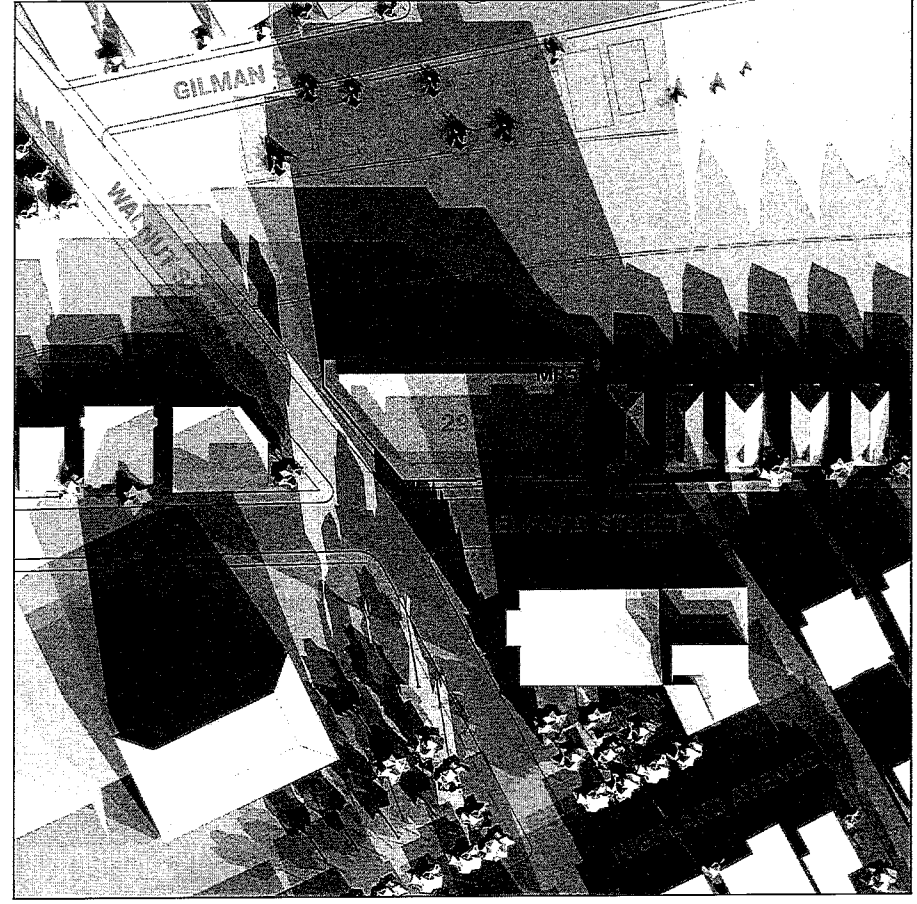
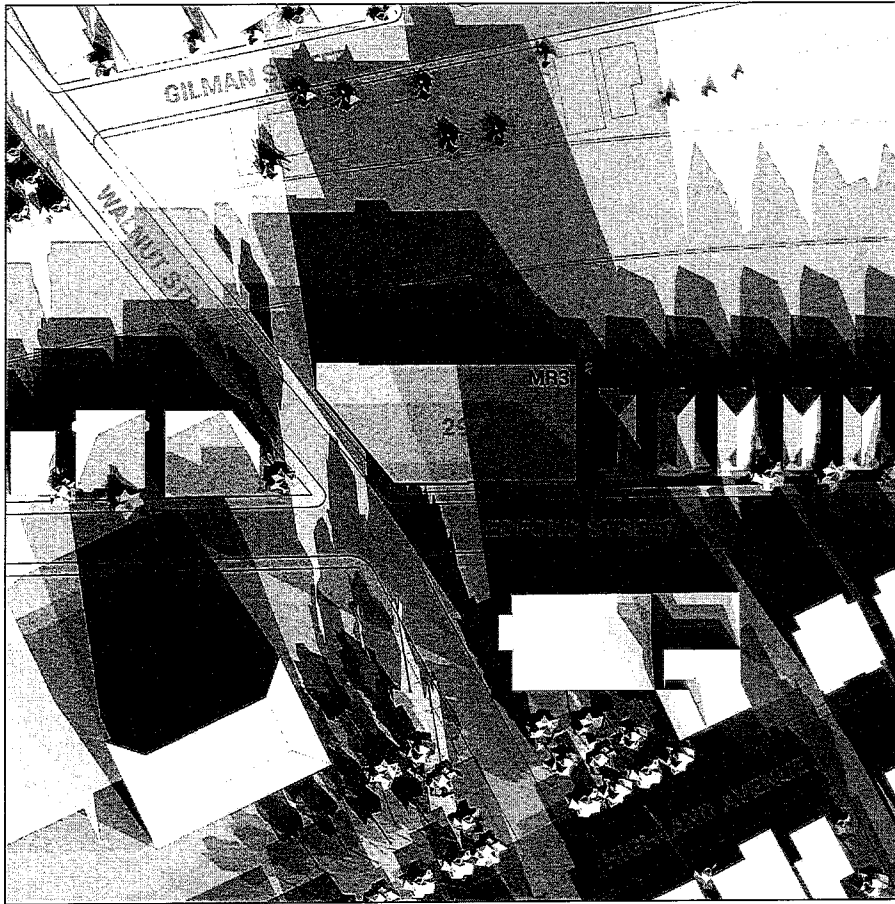
**AUTUMNAL EQUINOX** EXISTING + PROPOSED  
SEPTEMBER 21 - 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

297 MEDFORD STREET

MARCH 30 2023

BALANCE  
ARCHITECTS





**WINTER SOLSTICE** EXISTING + PROPOSED  
DECEMBER 21 - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

297 MEDFORD STREET  
MARCH 30 2023

